(a) what quantity of service stamps has been used up in 1106 and 1107 and what value has been realised by their sale;

(b) what is the approximate cost incurred in buying these stamps;

(c) is any purpose served by the use of service stamps other than knowing the quantity used by each office and as a check on possible abuse of free Anchal service;

(d) is the Government aware that though the Anchal Department gets credit under sale of service stamps, it is only a book adjustment and that money actually goes out of the treasury;

(e) is the Government aware that the British Government and most of the Native States sell service stamps to stamp dealers and make up the cost incurred;

(f) are there any reasons in Cochin which make it objectionable to sell them to stamp dealers?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) The numbers of sheets used in 1106 is not readily available. In 1107 about 12,690 sheets of various denominations were used. The value of service stamps consumed in 1106 and 1107 was approximately Rs. 34,469 in 1106 and Rs. 35,424 in 1107.

(b) About Rs. 4,000.

(c) These are the main uses.

(d) Yes. The money that is actually spent is more than made up by the useful purpose served.

(e) Yes; but it is doubtful whether the cost incurred is made up by the sale.

(f) The point is noted for consideration.

Superintendent of Vernacular Education.

262. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) when the Superintendent of Vernacular Education was appointed;

(b) what work has he turned out hitherto?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—(a) 1st Meenam 1107.

(b) Inspected the work of the Sanskrit and Malayalam Pandits in several Secondary schools. Had a thorough inspection of the work of Sanskrit schools. Inspected Fishery schools. As the Fishery schools were newly started, they had to be visited frequently and the Headmasters were given necessary instructions in teaching all the subjects including Pisciculture. The correspondence of Fishery schools is being submitted through the Superintendent and he has thus to forward all papers relating to these schools with his remarks to the Director. The Superintendent of Vernacular Education being the

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Ex-officio Secretary of the Vernacular Elementary Education Committee, he is also engaged in connection with the work of that Committee.

Mr P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know, Sir, whether the duties of the Superintendent of Vernacular Education have been defined by the Government?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know what they are?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—They are given here in answer to sub-division (b).

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Can I take it that the things mentioned in answer to (b) are the duties pertaining to his office?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—Yes, I should think so.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—It is given here. "Inspected Fishery schools. As the Fishery schools were newly started they had to be visited frequently and the Headmasters were given necessary instructions in teaching all the subjects including Pisciculture". Bearing in mind that he is the Superintendent of Vernacular Education and the work mentioned here is mainly Pisciculture lectures, may I know whether he is an expert in Pisciculture?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—I should take that he knows that work.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is he an expert?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—Well, I cannot say, in the modern sense of the word, that he is an expert in that work. But to start and to organise the first stages of the work, I think he is quite competent.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—What is the necessity for the correspondence of these Fishery schools being carried on through the Vernacular Education Superintendent?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—We have so far only literary schools and in literary schools Pisciculture is also attempted in the most elementary stages and at present it is arranged that the correspondence should pass through him.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—What is the necessity for the correspondence from these Fishery schools going to the Director to pass through the Superintendent of Vernacular Education?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—In the Fishery schools literary subjects are also taught and these two are clubbed together. They were originally literary schools.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—From the name of the office it is seen that he is the Superintendent of Vernacular Education. How he happens to be the intermediary between the

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Fishery schools and the Director for the correspondence?

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Is there any relation between a Vernacular Education Inspector and Fishery schools?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—I want notice.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Is it because he had not sufficient work in the other line?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—Certainly not.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—How is it that primary schools are left off from the purview of his inspection?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—Primary schools do not require any specialised staff to inspect them.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is it not a fact that Malayalam is being taught in primary schools?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—The standard is only of an elementary grade and only in the higher classes any specialised study is necessary.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Are we to take it that he has nothing to do with primary schools?

Mr. K. Narasimha Pai.—If more definite information is required I want notice.

Tharakans—petition from.

263. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

1. whether they are in receipt of any petition from the 'Tharakans' of Chittur showing their backwardness and praying for employments to the members of their community;
2. if so, will the Government be pleased to place it on the table;
3. what action has the Government taken regarding it?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—1. Yes.

2. A copy of the petition is appended. (*Appendix III*)
3. The petition was communicated to the Heads of Departments for consideration and disposal.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Have the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that they have applied to all Heads of departments?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I am not sure. However the petition has been again forwarded to the Heads of departments.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—With no remarks from the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes, there is the remark 'for consideration' and disposal. There are also the general orders that backward classes should be given preference always.

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